

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**Claims pending**

- At time of the Action: Claims 1-6, 8-14, 17-18, and 20.
- After this Response: Claims 1-6, 8-14, 17-18, and 20.

Canceled or Withdrawn claims: 7, 15-16, 19, and 21-27.

Amended claim: claim 1

New claims: None.

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Currently amended): A device for preventing damage to a wire having a given diameter, the device comprising:

a first curved end for connecting the device to a supporting structure, wherein the first curved end fits over at least a portion of the supporting structure; and

a second curved end for supporting at least one skein of the wire on the device, wherein the second curved end is fixed in an open receiving position for allowing the skein to be placed onto and removed from the second curved end, and wherein the second curved end comprises a curved inside surface, wherein the curved inside surface defines a plurality of grooves, and wherein at least one of the grooves has a diameter approximately the same as the diameter of the wire, and wherein the grooves approximate the cross-sectional configuration of the wire to engage respective loops of the wire.

2. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein the supporting structure is a ladder.

3. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein the supporting structure is a ceiling component.

4. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein the device is made from a material selected from the group consisting of rubber, plastic, and aluminum.
5. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein a portion of the device is coated with a soft material.
6. (Original): The device of claim 5, wherein the soft material is rubber.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein the curved end has a small diameter.
9. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein the first curved end further comprises a fastening device.
10. (Original): The device of claim 9, wherein the fastening device is selected from the group consisting of a clamp and a latch.
11. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein the second curved end is hook shaped.
12. (Original): The device of claim 11, wherein the hook shape has a large diameter.

13. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein the second curved end is coated with a soft material.
14. (Previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of grooves has a diameter approximately the same as the diameter of the wire.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein the first curved end pivots at a hinge.
18. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein the second curved end pivots at a hinge.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Previously presented): The device of claim 1, further comprising means for changing the shape of the device, wherein the means for changing of the shape of the device is for connecting the device to supporting structures at different angles.

21. (Withdrawn): A method for preventing damage to a wire, the method comprising:

pulling the wire through a portion of a span within a conduit structure to an intermediate point;

hanging excess of the wire at the intermediate point on a skein holding device, wherein the skein holding device comprises a first curved end for connecting the skein holding device to a supporting structure and a second curved end for supporting at least one skein of the wire on the skein holding device; and

pulling the wire through another portion of the span to a termination point.

22. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 21, further comprising fastening the skein holding device to a supporting structure.

23. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 22, wherein the fastening includes securing the skein holding device to the supporting structure with a latch.

24. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein the supporting structure is chosen from the group consisting of a ceiling and a wall.

25. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 21, further comprising fastening the wire to the skein holding device.

26. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 25, wherein the fastening is done with a latch.

27. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 21, further comprising:

connecting the wire to a beginning point; and

connecting the wire to a termination point.